



**FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

**Reports**



Fifth

Annual General Meeting of

**Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties**

Tuesday October 17, 2023

7:00 pm

Draft Agenda

- Welcome
- Opening ceremony—Ko'ona Saber
- Permission to record and post
- Introductions
- Land recognition
- Approve minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Chair of Keepers' Circle—Elaine Bishop
- Report of the Education Working Group—Kathryn Boschmann
- Report of the Treasurer—Michael Welsh
- Nominating Committee report and selection of Keepers of the Circle—Mary Lysecki
- Comments and contributions
- Thanks and closing

## **SHARE THE GIFT – HONOUR THE TREATIES**

**DATE/TIME:** September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm

**Type of meeting:** Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Facilitator:** Elaine

**Note taker:** Mary

**Attendees:** Kerry Saner-Harvey, Elaine Bishop, Ko'ona Saber, Irene Greenwood, Mary Lysecki, Michael Welch, Margaret Mullin

**Regrets:** Esther Epp-Tiessen, Karin Kirchner, Kathryn Boschmann

### 2022-1: Welcome and Opening Ceremony

Elaine: Welcome

Koona: opening ceremony, thunderbird smudge

Elaine: land acknowledgement

Elaine: Asking for permission to record to help with making minutes, won't be posting anywhere, but feel free to turn cameras off if you want.

### 2022-2. Last AGM Minutes

All agree to approve the past minutes

### 2022-3. Report of Chair of Keepers of the Circle

**Action** item get stuff re MMIWG2S on website

Meeting about money in the fall, plan for meeting with elders

Started reparations fund

Goals for coming year

Looking to expand memberships

Interfaith gathering

All agree and approve

#### 2022-4. Education Working Group Report

Kerry with thanks to Kathryn for putting the report together

Grateful to Karin, Michael, and Margaret for their participation

Updated brochure, Kathryn did a lot of the work

Blog post on reparations fund, Elaine and Kerry

Interfaith round table to discuss treaty relationships from different faith perspectives.

New date for round table

Elaine : I could add - reparations – what can people without either \$ or land do – there are options on the website

All agree and approve

#### 2022-5. Treasurer Report

Elaine: we need to amend the AGM report deleting the book keeping detail from the Treasurer's Report. This level of bookkeeping detail is not generally included in a Treasurer's Report. Next year we will provide an Income and Expense Report and Balance Sheet.

Michael: we're looking pretty good, Reparations fund ended year with

All agree and approve

#### 2022-6. Nominating Committee Report

Mary:

- Time of year to revisit and renew relationships and part of this is recommitting to roles in the organization, Keepers function partially as board of directors, as well as other roles
- Putting forward nominations for next 2 years: Mary, Raf, Kerry, Michael, following will continue on their 2 year terms – Elaine Bishop and Ko’ona Saber
- All agree and approve these nominations

#### 2022-7. Questions, Comments, Feedback & Closing

- Ko’ona shared experience with group outside of Manitoba who had no clue about how to engage with Indigenous people. So grateful fo those in MB , like STGHtT who are working towards reconciliation and reparations.
- Irene it’s good to connect with this group again, It feels to good to be in your presence again, grateful that you have been able to keep the work going.
- Michael feeling positive about the interest shown at the We Are All Treaty People. Ko’ona is also really on point.
  
- Elaine thanked all for coming and look forward to going on from here. Holding out vision that one day we will have a line up at the Forks on Treaty Days of people making reparations that is as long or longer than the line of people receiving treaty money.

## **Report of the Chair of the Keepers' Circle to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties**

**Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties reason for being** as stated in our registration as a Manitoba non-profit organization: Guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 'Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples ...affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with states' (preliminary statements in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action 45, 46 and 61 as a contribution towards building reconciliation, **Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties** exists to create an organization that enables Settler and Newcomer peoples in Canada to express their full engagement as Treaty people by making financial contributions to a fund the spending of which is controlled by Indigenous People. It will: a) provide education enabling Settler and Newcomer peoples to learn about their roles as Treaty Peoples; b) provide opportunities for Settler and Newcomer people to honour the Treaties and participate fully as Treaty Peoples; and c) provide opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Settler and Newcomer peoples.

### **2022-2023 Was Harder Than We Had Hoped!**

The past year was harder for Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties than we had hoped the last time we reported to you. A number of us on the Keepers' Circle, including me, lived with health or other life challenges that reduced the resources available for the work. While the vision remained strong the energy to accomplish was very limited. I am really pleased, though, to be able to report that this has now shifted. Already there are exciting initiatives that we will work with this fall and winter.

**Directions for our work:** we continue to be guided by these four directions discerned in January 2021:

- Getting our name out
- Understanding and exploring money—its meaning in society, its gifts and its risks
- Land and reparations
- What does it mean to be a Treaty partner?

### **Work in the past year**

- Since our last AGM the Keepers' Circle has met eight times on zoom.
- We continued our membership in the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord filing all needed documentation reporting on our activities for the past year and the goals for our next year. The Indigenous Accord has added a requirement for a goal related to the Calls for Justice of the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Our goal for that is: 'related to Calls for Justice for All Canadians 15.2 (decolonize by learning true history...) and 15.4 (become a strong ally) to continue expanding own understandings and the information on our website concerning MMIWG including seeking blog posts by those involved in
- MMIWG advocacy and expanding understanding of and acting on structural reparations--advocacy on issues related to MMIWG.'
- Slow work continues on exploring the meaning of money, as advised in our last Elders' consultation. Various Keepers are reading about the meaning of money, mainly from Euro-colonizer perspectives but also including some Indigenous resources. This turns out to be a very complex issue that also demands understanding of issues such as the economy. We held a special Keepers' Meeting where we shared resources that we found

helpful. A number of us have been using the work of Edgar Villanueva, Indigenous author of *Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous wisdom to heal divides and restore balance*, and its guided journal for reflection and action, *Money as Medicine*. The journal starts with this quotation: ‘The principle of All My Relations means that everyone is at home here. **Everyone** has a responsibility for making things right. **Everyone** has a role in the process of healing, regardless of whether they caused or received more harm. **All our suffering is mutual. All our healing is mutual. All our thriving is mutual.**’ (bold in original)

- We had a display table at the We Are All Treaty People Celebration in September 2022. This allowed us to distribute copies of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to talk to folks about Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. We were there again for the 2023 We Are All Treaty People Celebration and made new contacts, including with members of Manitoba Opera which is performing *Li Keur: Riel’s Heart of the North* in November.
- The Education Working Group planned and put on a consultation with a small number of people from different faith traditions to begin the conversation about ways in which their faith groups are responding to truth and reconciliation issues.
- Each of us on the Keepers Circle continue to do other work related to right relationships and justice for Indigenous peoples. I have personally made connections with people in England/Scotland/Wales and in the USA working on reparations for people(s) whose ancestors were enslaved. Some exploration of right amounts of personal funds has been discussed there with 1% of annual income being identified as a place to start. I have personally brought my annual contributions to the Reparations



Fund up to that amount so that I may speak with authenticity to those whom I am inviting to make that commitment, emphasizing that reparations are a benefits-based contribution, a gift, not a charitable donation.

**In the next year**, with us already experiencing renewed energy, we will continue to take this work forward. We are talking about a ways of spreading the word and inviting more people into becoming members and Friends of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties. Our work exploring money will continue as that task requires lifetimes of attention. We have started a path of further engaging Elders, refining the questions to bring to them, especially about seeking a right indigenous structure for decision making over the Reparations Fund. We continue to invite everyone to consider making an appropriate contribution to the Reparations Fund.

Elaine Bishop  
Chair, Keepers' Circle

**Share the Gifts – Honour the Treaties  
Education Working Group Annual Report**

**Current Participants:** Elaine Bishop, Kathryn Boschmann, Kerry Saner-Harvey, Mary Lysecki, Michael Welch, Rafael Terrain, and Karin Kirchner.

**Roles and Participants:** Since many of the Education Working Group (EWG) members also serve on the Keeper's Circle, it was decided to merge our meetings with the Keeper's meetings. This would reduce the number of meetings many of the EWG members would have to serve on. The idea is to lengthen the meeting times and to alternate our focus from Keeper's matters to EWG matters each month.

We have yet to recruit any new participants, but we are hopeful that a membership drive may bring in some folks who are interested in what we do.

**Communications:**

We addressed an issue on the website that was giving site visitors security warnings. Thank you to Kerry for sorting this problem out! We have developed business cards as another method of providing the public with information about us and what we do. We will be able to bring these to events or carry with us to distribute. They will be a good accompaniment to the brochures we created last year. We hope to have these printed and ready to disperse by the new year.

**Workshops and Events:**

On February 12, 2023, we planned and facilitated a multi-faith sharing circle consultation about what it means to be a good Treaty partner with six representatives from various faith traditions. Elder Belinda VandenBroeck opened the circle and shared teachings and wisdom. There were also opportunities to enjoy some refreshments and get to know each other during a short break. The sharing was rich, and we ran out of time to touch on all the questions we had for our group. We are considering holding a second sharing circle to continue the

conversation and deepen the relationships we began, although there is no clear timeline for this follow up event. This event brought us a step further in encouraging discussions about treaty relationships and reparations within Manitoba's diverse communities, as well as building interfaith community relationships. We are planning on setting aside some meetings in the coming year to plan workshops to promote on our website and deliver to interested groups. We are also regularly considering various outreach opportunities and ways to introduce ourselves as a resource for Settler and Newcomer communities who want to become better Treaty partners.

*Report prepared by Kathryn Boschmann*

Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties-AGM Financial Report

2023.10.11

By Treasurer Michael Welch with Elaine Bishop

Guided by the purposes and principles of the *United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* 'Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples ...affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with states' (preliminary statements in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action 45, 46 and 61 as a contribution towards building reconciliation, **Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties** exists to create an organization that enables Settler and Newcomer peoples in Canada to express their full engagement as Treaty people by making financial contributions to a fund the spending of which is controlled by Indigenous People. It will: a) provide education enabling Settler and Newcomer peoples to learn about their roles as Treaty Peoples; b) provide opportunities for Settler and Newcomer people to honour the Treaties and participate fully as Treaty Peoples; and c) provide opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Settler and Newcomer peoples.

## **Finances**

The financial year for Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties is the calendar year. Consequently the financials presented to the Annual General Meeting are the financials for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Contributions to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties may either go directly to the Reparations Fund, or to the Operations account as directed by the contributor. Seventy per-cent of contributions to the Operations account are transferred to the Reparations Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

### **Financial Statements**

Attached is the statement of Income and Expense. It indicates contributions to the Operating Account of \$680 and interest from the Reparations Fund of \$14.66 for a total 2022 income of \$694.66. There were no expenses during the fiscal year.

Attached is a statement of Fund Balances which describes funds in and out of both the Reparations Fund and the Operating Account. It provides the balance of each at the end of the financial year. Income for the Reparations Fund includes interest and the transfer of 70% of contributions to the Operating account for the 2021 year.

### **General Comments**

In May 2023 the 2022 transfer of \$626 from the Operating Account to the Reparations Fund was made.

The financial activity for 2022 reflects the reduced activity of Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties related in part to the COVID restrictions.

We note in both financial years on the Statement of Income and Expense that the 30% of income of operating account contributions left after transferring 70% of income to the Reparations Fund were not sufficient to cover many operating expenses. We have been fortunate that in the past grants from Canadian Friends Service Committee and Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba have helped cover expenses related to consultations with Elders. We look forward to increased activities by Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties resulting in contributions sufficient to cover our costs such as annual returns to the Companies Office and consultations with Elders. On the whole, with increases in funding and expenses looming, the basic set up for our finances is apparently quite solid moving forward.

We express again our warm appreciation to all contributors to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties! We encourage all members and supporters to consider whether they feel called to contribute to this work. Contributions to both the operating expenses and to the Reparations Fund will be warmly received.

Miigwetch

Michael Welch with Elaine Bishop

Treasurer, StG-HtT

## Fund balances report for fiscal year 2022

### Reparations Fund

Balance on January 1 2022		\$1,145.88
Funds in		
Interest income	14.66	
2021 70% transfer from General Fund	282.80	
Funds out	0.00	
<b>Balance on December 31, 2022</b>		<b>\$1,443.34</b>

### Operating Account

Balance on January 1, 2022		1,077.09
Funds in		
contributions	680.00	
Funds out		
2021 70% to Reparations Fund	282.80	
<b>Balance on December 31 2022</b>		<b>1,474.29</b>

**Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties  
Statement of Income and Expense  
January 1-December 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
Income		
Contributions	\$680.00	\$404.00
Reparations Fund		
Interest	14.66	2.00
Total Income	\$694.66	\$406.00
Expenses	0.00	533.5
Surplus	\$694.66	-\$129.50

Red indicates deficit

**Nominating Report to Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties  
5th Annual General Meeting  
October 17, 2023**

Through Share the Gifts-Honour the Treaties incorporation “Keepers of the Circle” is identified as the board of directors for the organization. The range of Keepers to serve at any time is a range of a minimum of five to a maximum of seven.

The terms of service identified in the Draft By-laws is for two year terms with the capacity for Keepers to be selected for up to three consecutive terms for a total of six years before leaving the Circle of Keepers.

We put forward the following nominations to serve as Keepers of the Circle for a term of two years from October 17, 2023 to the date of the seventh AGM in 2025:

- Mary Lysecki
- Kerry Saner-Harvey
- Michael Welch
- Kathryn Boschmann

The following Keepers will continue as elected at the 2022 AGM for a term of two years from September 20, 2022 to the date of the sixth AGM in 2024:

- Elaine Bishop
- Ko'ona Saber

Mary Lysecki

October 16, 2023